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1932-1973

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Russian sub activity

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Dear Don (Felt), 6 July 1951
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! ! ? ! X

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, R. I.

26 January, 1950

Vice Admiral H. G. Bowen, USN(Ret)
Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, Inc.
Main St. at Lakeside Avenue
West Orange, New Jersey

Dear Admiral Bowen:

I have answered your questionnaire as best I could and have enclosed it herein. I hope that it is helpful to you.

Needless to say I have always been proud of my M.S. from Columbia. As I have said in the questionnaire, I consider that the educational benefits which I derived from that course have stood me well throughout the years.

I am now on duty at the Naval War College where I am writing the critical analyses of the four major naval battles of the Pacific War, VIZ: Coral Sea, Midway, Savo Island, Leyte Gulf. These analyses are criticisms essentially of Command. I believe that my engineering training is helpful in this work.

Your son is here and is of course doing well. He is a fine fellow with an enviable war record. I am as proud of him almost as you are.

Best to your Mrs.

Sincerely yours

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN(Ret)

0246

QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTION

1. Engineering conditions in the Navy prior to the inauguration of the post graduate school at Columbia.

ANSWER

I do not know.

QUESTION

2. Such observations as you may have in regard to the inauguration of the post graduate schools at Annapolis and Columbia.

ANSWER

It stands to reason that engineering officers who have had the privilege of studying advanced engineering at some fine engineering school should generally be much better prepared for engineering duties than a so-called "practical" engineer.

QUESTION

3. Conduct of the post graduate school at Columbia.

ANSWER

I thought that the post graduate school at Columbia was very well conducted and I viewed its removal elsewhere with concern. During my day at Columbia the privilege of studying under among others, Morecroft in Radio and Arendt, Hehr and Schlichter in Electrical Engineering was unusual to say the least.

QUESTION

4. Conditions at Columbia.

ANSWER

The conditions at Columbia were splendid. Educationally speaking, the professional staff were of very high caliber; the students with whom the naval students associated were competent, serious and intelligent. Living conditions in New York 1921-22 were simple if one lived in the vicinity of Columbia.

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QUESTION

5. Your opinion of the value of your course at Columbia.

ANSWER

I am thoroughly sold on the effectiveness of my course at Columbia. It not only taught me considerably more about general engineering but far more important than that, it helped me to learn to think. This is a must for a naval officer.

QUESTION

6. Did you participate in the organization and operation of the Navy's gas engine and sub-chaser school? If so, will you please give your comments in regard to sufficiency and satisfactoriness.

ANSWER

No comment.

QUESTION

7. What engineering position did you occupy prior to World War II and during the progress of World War II, and did you find your Columbia education benefitted you? If so, would you kindly explain the benefits of your experience.

ANSWER

After graduating from Columbia I was:

- (a) Electrical Officer, BB MARYLAND Sept 1922 to June 1925.
- (b) Head of Department of Engineering (now called Dept of Engineering at the Post graduate School Annapolis, June 1925 to June 1927.
- (c) Engineering Officer, USS RICHMOND, August 1927 to June 1930.
- (d) War Plans Officer, Security Officer, and Publications Officer, Bureau of Engineering, June 1935 to June 1938.

I found that the combination training that I received at the post graduate schools Annapolis and Columbia made me much better able to solve the complexities of modern engineering. I won the Red "E" on both the MARYLAND and the CLARK and always was to the front in engineering competition. I felt myself well able to discuss engineering problems with civilian engineers. I also found myself able to edit the Navy Engineering publications such as Bureau of Engineering Manuals, Shop Notes, and Engineering Bulletin with highly satisfactory results. I am convinced that such training is essential today.

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QUESTION

8. Discussion of any item of possible interest for the record, and which you do not think is covered by questions #1 to #7.

ANSWER

No comment

QUESTION

9. Remarks: I believe that an engineering post graduate course is preferable to most other post graduate courses as it is more general and gives a better groundwork for the solution of the many engineering problems encountered both afloat and ashore. It is extremely valuable for command as it improves the ability of an officer to reason, diagnose and decide. I know that I had very excellent results in my planning during war, and in the execution of those plans against the Japanese enemy. A large part of this success can be attributed to my engineering background.

Unfortunately engineering duty does not assist an officer to be promoted. Instead it acts as an anchor and tends to hold him back, possibly, in part, because the engineer is not well known. He is below decks.

R. W. BATES

OFSTIE

March 1, 1950

Dear Ralph:-

I thought that your speech was swell yesterday. It was well organized, and well documented. Your prestige as the senior naval member of USFBS and your association with the Atomic Energy Committee gave it character. It was full of meat and provoked much thought, which after all, I think makes a speech worth while. Certain of the Air Force representatives were quite critical of some of it, notably, "the last 20 minutes" to quote one of them.

They seemed to feel that you had thrown strategic bombing completely out of the window. I told them that you had not done so in my mind. What you had done was to register disapproval of mass bombings of cities and other objectives which might well cause us to lose the peace.

Might I suggest therefore if you deliver your speech again that you clarify this point? Might I also suggest that you preface your discussion with your own definition of strategic and tactical bombing? I think that there is confusion in many minds over the implications and limitations of both of these forms of bombing.

Finally, and perhaps most important, I feel that your message would be strengthened if you pointed out that the objective of warfare is the reduction of the enemy will to resist so that we can bend him to our will. If you concur in this conception then the enemy armed forces will only be one target - often the most important target it is true - but only one target. There will be occasions when targets other than the armed forces might more fully contribute to enemy defeat. You mentioned some of these yesterday - ie lines of transportation, fuel refineries, stock piles, manufacturing plants, etc. Many of these targets are surely strategic.

I was sorry that I did not see more of you as I should have liked to discuss some of the above matters with you.

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Once again, you made a very fine presentation and
I am sure gave "food for thought" to many.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral
Ralph Ofstie, USN
Military Liason Committee
to Atomic Energy Commission
Room 3046, Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0251

April 4, 1950

Dear Sherman:-

Has anyone given consideration to the possibility that these so-called Russian submarines operating off our coasts may be here solely "to test our radar and sonar anti-submarine defenses", and more particularly those within our anti-submarine fleet? Although I feel confident that your office knows all about this and other ideas, I am forwarding this one because no one that I have discussed this matter with here has even given the idea a thought. However, once told, they accept it as highly probable.

You are doing swell and have the confidence of the Navy and the Nation! Keep it up!

Don't waste your time in replying to this.

Sincerely,

R. W. BATES
Commodore, U.S.N. (Ret)

Admiral Forrest Sherman
Chief of Naval Operations
Pentagon Building
Room 4E632
Arlington, Va

0252

Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

April 20, 1950.

Dear Mr. Cooney,

I cannot begin to tell you of what a lift I got when I received your interesting and delightful letter of April 7th. You were extremely kind and thoughtful to have remembered me in your moment of success and I am not unmindful of it.

Needless to say I am very pleased that you have seen fit to improve yourself since the war and are now well prepared to take your place among the younger stalwarts of whichever political party - Republicans or Democratic - and well prepared for a responsible position in our society. That, in my mind, is an important step in the improvement of the mental and moral quality of our citizens. Unfortunately, even with government help, too few of our people recognize the importance of preparing one's self for citizenship.

We had quite a time together on the "Minnie" and at intervals I view those days with a form of nostalgia although we all know that they were tough.

At present I am on duty at the Naval War College where I am working the critical analysis, both tactical and strategical of our major naval battles of the Pacific war. I have completed three - Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island - and have received many encomiums about them. Naturally they are confidential.

I never fully recovered from that accident. I developed heart trouble and was retired physically in 1949. Although I was a Commodore during the war, my medical record denied me advancement to Rear-Admiral (active). I was told this by the Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Thanks for your wonderful letter and believe me when I say "Well Done!"

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N. (Ret)

Mr. James G. Cooney
National Title Building
126 West Third Street
Los Angeles 13, California

0253

Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

19 April 1950.

Dear Hogland,

Your plans for the Peter Tare reunion are swell and I shall be delighted to be present.

I am particularly pleased that you have chosen to honor Admiral Kincaid whom I consider as one of the few outstanding "Captains" of the war.

Also, I used to know Bob Montgomery well at Newport. A very fine gentleman and an excellent officer.

Finally I hope to review a few of the old friendships of five years ago - - think of it - - five years. Why it seems like yesterday.

Best regards, as ever

Yours sincerely,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.(Ret)

Mr. Edgar Hogland
Peter Tare Inc.
Post Office Box #239
Madison Square Station
New York 10, New York.

0254

Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island.

April 21, 1950.

Dear Admiral Hewitt,

I am forwarding to you by separate correspondence the last few chapters of the Battle of Savo Island, with

- (a) The combat Appraisal of Vice-Admiral Mikawa
- (b) The Effect of the Battle
- (c) The Revised Battle Lessons

I hope that you will find my viewpoints correct, and that you will also find the remainder of the book up to satisfactory standard.

It was wonderful to see you when you were here and to note that, except for your cold, you are in excellent shape. Mrs. Hewitt also looked swell.

Take care of yourself and your Green Mountains. Perhaps I shall get a look at them this year!

Needless to say I certainly appreciate your kindness in reviewing my labor. Your approval gives me confidence.

I'm glad that the cheese arrived and that you like it. Frankly I think that it is wonderful and that is why I sent it.

Mrs. Beary's play was excellently staged and played last night at the Officer's Club. As the Nortons were there, I presume they will tell you about it.

This whole Russian situation both here and abroad "smells". American handling and understanding of diplomacy is apparently very primitive, and I fear we may lose more before we commence to gain. This BUDENZ - LATTIMORE affair is a case in point. Here practical factors seem to have more weight than the national interest. And why we allow men of questionable leanings i.e. communistic fellow travelers - to advise on national policy is beyond my

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simple comprehension. Its a mess no matter how one
looks at it!

Best regards to you and Mrs. Hewitt

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N. (Ret)

Admiral H. K. Hewitt, U.S.N.
Foretop
Orwell, Vermont

0256

27 June 1950

Dear Lynde:-

This is merely a note to tell you of how much I enjoyed seeing you again; of how well you look; and of how delighted I was to hear everywhere of how successful you are and of what a fine team you and Forrest make. Should a national emergency arise, and one may well be in the making, I feel confident that the nation may sleep in peace in so far as its Navy is concerned. This is not blarney but is my firm belief and that of many others. I feel that it is the correct belief.

Now with the pressure of world events beginning to take the spotlight, and with the need for some action uppermost in many minds, both here and abroad, the importance of the Navy once again becomes evident. The fog of adverse propaganda is already lifting and the Navy is once again assuming its rightful place in the scheme of things. This is probably keeping you busy, but what is life without responsibility and action.

Take care of yourself. Best regards to you and to Forrest!

As ever,

Your old pal,

R. W. BATES

*Vice Admiral McCormack, USN.
Room 4E 628
Pentagon Bld.
Arlington Va*

0257

11 July 1950

Bohemian Club
Post and Taylor Sts.
San Francisco, California

Gentlemen:

I have succeeded in arriving in San Francisco in time for the Grove. Naturally I am delighted, but as I made no arrangements - being delayed at the Naval War College - I am fearful that I may have difficulty in obtaining a reservation of some kind in the camp. I am therefore hastening to indicate my wishes with the hope that the Grove management will be able to satisfy my whims.

I should like, if possible, to be in Camp Bromley. I should like also to have my brother, Dr. C. H. Bates, with me. I desire this because I am physically disabled - heart - and I think it wise with the excitement at the camp to have my medical brother with me.

I should like to be at the Grove for the "Cremation of Care" - that is, Saturday and Sunday next - I should like to be in the Grove for the "Low Jinks" and to remain throughout the week for the "High Jinks".

Anything that you may do in this matter to assist me would naturally be greatly appreciated. My arrival in this area has been so - shall we say sudden - that it has not been possible for me to advise you heretofore.

With confidence that there will be a great Grove celebration this year, I am

Very sincerely,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN

0258

File

September 13, 1950.

Dr. Howard B. Sprague,
1180 Beacon Street,
Brookline 46, Massachusetts.

Dear Doctor Sprague:

I have noted with considerable interest that you have been in conference in Paris on heart matters. This is as it should be for there is no one whom enjoys a higher reputation in these matters than you do. I'm sure that the American delegation distinguished itself.

On the other hand, I also noted in the press reports that you had been drinking champagne with the Mayor of Paris - Pierre De Gaulle. This is also as it should be, but I was somewhat surprised at the champagne - I thought that that heart men prescribed whisky.

Anyway, all humor aside, I should like to have an appointment with you sometime this or next month, at your convenience.

I am continuing to write the analytical studies here at the War College and wish to check my condition with you before I settle down to another era - several years - of hard work. I have completed three books which have been well received and now have orders keeping me on duty indefinitely. I'm not so sure I wish to remain on duty that long.

With best regards

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

0259

20 September 1950

Dear Mick:-

I received, a few days ago, your letter relative to the Naval Institute wherein you chided me on the fact that I am no longer a member. The reason I dropped out was not that I was not interested in remaining a member, but rather because it seemed silly to subscribe to the Proceedings which we have here in the War College Library. Also, it is prominently displayed in the Reading Room Library in Newport. However, on the simple assumption that you would not have written me had you not thought it to the best interests of the Naval Institute, I have rejoined - the card is in the mail.

Meanwhile, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. With your understanding of war and your experience in combat plus your knowledge of logistics, you are, in my mind, admirably fitted to relieve Dick Conolly. I consider it highly important that, in these pressure days, no one be considered for any high command who has not demonstrated ability in command in combat - who has not demonstrated the ability to make decisions under the fast moving pressure of a tactical engagement. I am afraid that in past years we have thought that a good administrator was ipso facto a good combat commander and we have therefore made many errors in our recent choices of Flag officers. However, based on the above requirements, I think that your last selection list, which came out yesterday, was excellent. I should have liked to have seen Henry Eccles on the list, as I feel that he is a real logistician and one that we cannot well lose. His promotion would have been good for the War College, for, until you selected Captain Felt, no one from the War College had been selected for years - staff or students. The selection of Felt has helped the War College immeasurably. It has helped to restore confidence in the fact that because one is connected with the War College, he is not necessarily a bum.

Best regards and thanks for your letter even though it did cost me \$3.00.

0260

My Study of "Savo Island" should be out any day now. I hope that you will read it and will not only enjoy it, but will find it good enough to recommend to your command.

With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Your old friend

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral Robert Carney
Commander Second Fleet
% Fleet Postoffice New York, N.Y.

0261

20 September 1950

Dear Lynde:-

Congratulations on the Navy and Marine successes in Korea! Forrest and you have succeeded, through the proper strategy, and proper employment of men and materials, in restoring the waning prestige of the Naval Service. I think that it is swell. It shows what can be done when the brain has been properly trained in the solution of the military problem and shows more than ever the need for educational institutions like the Naval War College where we make an effort, often highly successful, to improve professional judgment in command. You are wise to keep it open!

I was pleased to observe the selection list for Rear Admirals which came out a day or so ago. So far as I can discover, no one disagrees with the selections. Perhaps here and there, someone would have preferred someone else in preference to some individual, but all in all, comments are highly favorable. This selection has also had a reassuring effect on the War College for the Chief of Staff, Captain Felt, was selected. He is the first officer - staff or students - to have been selected in years. The staff and students now can feel that the practice, whether fortuitous or by design, of not promoting anyone who was connected, even in a remote way, with the War College, no longer obtains. Perhaps War College graduates are not bums after all!

I, of course, was disappointed that Henry Eccles who is Head of our Department of Logistics was not promoted. I feel that Logistics is so important today that the men who are charged with its destiny should be the best obtainable. The Head of the Logistics Department here has an enormous responsibility in the future of Logistics, and his officers, as well as others at the College, watch what happens to the "boss". I hope that when a relief is appointed for him, probably next year, every effort will be made to choose as his successor someone who is extremely likely to be selected. This will have a bolstering effect on the mental attitude of those who are choosing logistics as their specialization.

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The President of the War College has sent a letter to the Navy Department wherein he asks for an increase in the allowance of my "Special Projects" group from two to four officers. For some reason, but presumably because the War College needed more officers on the instruction staff, my analytical team which which when I reported for duty in 1946 consisted of four officers - one Commodore, two Captains and one Commander - has been reduced to one Commodore (Captain) and one Commander. This is inadequate for satisfactory results. During the presidency of Admiral Spruance my allowance was set by him at four officers, although during the latter part of his Presidency it was reduced to three by Bupers. Since that time and more particularly during the latter portion of Admiral Beary's Presidency, my on board allowance was cut again to two officers although the Bupers allowance was still three. In April of this year Admiral Beary received a directive from the Chief of Naval Operations directing that the War College analyse the Battle for Leyte Gulf after finishing the Battle of Savo Island. Admiral Beary called me into his office and in the presence of the Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Brown, told me that the College had received this directive and asked me to do the job. I agreed providing I obtained an adequate staff and providing I could get the Japanese translations. I told him that Leyte Gulf was much more difficult than the other three battles that I had already done as there were three major battles included in the main battle. He then promised me that if I would do the job he would give me the basic allowance of officers (which was three as of February 1st) and would help me get any additional officers necessary. Since then, the College has been reorganized and I have ended up with but one assistant instead of three. Admiral Cooley is now trying to correct the situation for which I am grateful. When I was last in Washington I spoke to Admirals Roper and Watkins on this matter. They were both thoroughly in favor of this increase in allowance. I hope that if this matter comes to your attention, you will approve the War College request. I want active officers or retired officers. I hope that I will not have to take reserves for this work because it requires very much evaluation of conflicting data.

There is little more to comment on. Cato Glover gets relieved on Monday by Dan Gallery as you know. I shall miss Cato as he is not only a personal friend but is also a very capable officer. He has asked Cooley and me to be present at the change of command. So if I can I plan to be there.

I hope that if General Bradley becomes the C-in-C of NATO's forces and Forrest fleets up to be chairman of the Joint

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Chiefs of Staff, you will fleet up into Sherman's shoes. Why not? I have heard propaganda in favor of other officers but none for you. I think I will begin beating a drum.

Your old friend Cyril Judge is on duty here temporarily for about one month. I understand that he has been assigned something tough to work on - at least he thinks so!

Best to Lillian! As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates

Vice Admiral Lynde McCormick, USN
Room 4E 628, Pentagon Bldg.
Arlington, Va.

0264

9 October 1950

Dear Dr. Sprague:-

It was pleasant to see you again and to hear that, in so far as cardiac deterioration is concerned, there was no change for the worse - and I regret to say none for the better.

I hope that you won't forget my "fatty" test at Cambridge. I am highly interested. I am one of these "foolish" people who believe in trying anything if it bids promise of being helpful to me or to humanity in general.

Mrs. George Mesta (Perle Mesta), our Minister to Luxembourg, has a brother and brother-in-law in Boston temporarily. The brother-in-law, Mr. George Tyson, who is about 82 but astonishingly active, is about to return to Luxembourg where his wife - Perle's sister - is staying, possibly at the Legation. I have told George before he returns to Europe to see you. He has promised that he will. So if, in a day or so, you hear from him please make room for him on your calendar. Last year he went to a party with me at the Officers' Club and collapsed. Nothing serious - he simply overdid it, I think, although I doubt if a cardiogram was taken. It is pretty important that you see him, I think.

Mr. Tyson is stopping at the Somerset Club but will be returning to Europe in a few days.

I think I will be privileged to send some more people to you. Among them - Mr. Kenneth Safe of Providence - possibly Mr. Frazer Jelke from here. They have promised to see you but at the last minute they may get frightened.

I will advise you later on the question of the movie here and the talk to the naval doctors.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

0265

24 October 1950

Dear Howard:-

I discussed your sons case with Bupers. There seems to be two things he can do. These are: (a) Naval Academy (b) College via Holloway Plan.

They think that if he is as good as you say and is good atheletic material as well that he might enter the Naval Academy. To do this it is well to get an appointment from a Rhode Island or Massachusetts Senator or Congressman. If you can get him that then they will put him into NAPS (Naval Academy Preparatory School here) to prepare for the Academy.

If he doesn't like the idea of the Naval Academy then the Holloway Plan might suit him. These are the papers on this plan. Note that he must make up his mind by November 18th. If he is one of the successful ones he can choose any College. Look at Roneld Dick. Very successful.

Tell him to make a decision now. The sooner the better.

Best to Mary: As ever.

Yours for old Boccie,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Howard Cushing
The Ledges
Ocean Avenue
Newport, R.I.

0266

26 October 1950

Dear Dr. Sprague:

I have been away on duty in Washington, but all has been arranged anyway. I hope you received the confirming telegram which I sent several days ago.

Here is the program:

- 1100 Show movie of Battle of Coral Sea.
- 1230 Lunch at Officers Club. It is my intention to ask some of the civilian doctors to lunch with you, and perhaps one or two Navy doctors.
- 1345 Show movie of Battle of Midway. I'm not sure how long this will last as it is still in the production stage. You may see this if you wish. I am sure that you will not be able to complete the sighting however, as you are due at the Naval Hospital at 1530.

I should be interested in learning whether you have anyone you would particularly desire to ask for lunch. I shall be most pleased to include him.

I am sorry about Mr. George Tyson. He promised that he would see you but you were away. His doctor is Dr. Jackson(?) on the staff of Massachusetts General Hospital. Jackson examined him and said "you can go to Dr. Sprague if you want to but I don't think that that is necessary". He then returned to Laxemberg on October 14th. I was quite displeased because I think that he needs a #1 heart specialist. He has collapsed twice.

I shall look forward to seeing you on November sixth.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

0267

1 November, 1950

Dear Doctor Sprague:

I'm delighted that you and Mrs. Sprague will be here on Monday next (November 6th). As I pointed out before, the movie of The Battle of the Coral Sea will be shown in the War College Auditorium at 1100 o'clock.

After the movie is over - about 1230 - we will have lunch at the Officers Club. I have decided to have three or possibly four medical officers including Captain Hernandez from the naval hospital to lunch with us; also three medical officers from the War College staff and student body; also one civilian medical man, Dr. "Mike" Sullivan who is the local dean of the medicos.

After lunch - lunch has to be over by 1330 for me as I have to criticize the afternoon movie, The Battle of Midway - Captain Hernandez says they will take care of you thereafter.

Sometime around 1730 (five-thirty pm) you and Mrs. Sprague are invited to a sort of afternoon reception given by Mr. Cornelius Moore for Mrs. Perle Mesta - out Minister to Luxemburg. I hope that you can go. Mr. Moore has just completed rebuilding his house and it is reported charming. Perle is always interesting.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

0268

5 December 1950

Admiral Forrest Sherman,
Chief of Naval Operations,
Room 4E632,
Navy Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Forrest:

With world and national affairs in such critical shape, I believe that the only place in government where sanity and coolness reigns is the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

I also feel that the Chief of Naval Operations, with his supporting staff of Vice-Admirals McCormick, Low, Duncan, Roper, Cassidy, et al, enjoys, at this critical time, the complete confidence of the Navy.

I am telling the Chief of Naval Operations this so that he may have mental freedom of action in maintaining his outstanding performance.

I missed the Chief at the Army-Navy game! I had hoped to see him at Pinky Schuirmann's. Where was he! Anyway, the Navy victory was some compensation.

Please don't attempt to answer this.

Best regards. As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES.

0269

Newport, Rhode Island,

5 December 1950

Rear Admiral T. R. Cooley, U. S. Navy,
Quarters #2, Yerba Buena Island,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Ross:

Thank you very much for your letter of 27 November enclosing the newspaper clipping about Hitchcock Military Academy. Seems hard for me to believe that the Academy was founded over 60 years ago. In my day it numbered almost 200, and was considered the finest military academy in the West. However, the Rector sold out, as it says here, and the school eventually was merged with Mt. Tamalpais Military Academy, and its basic ground was changed to the Mt. Tamalpais School.

I don't blame you for being shocked at Mrs. Whitehouse's death. All of us knew she wasn't too well, and had an attack of some kind sometime ago, but no one realized she was sick unto death. I got somewhat suspicious just before she died and succeeded in bringing Dr. Howard Sprague, my heart specialist, from Boston here, and Dr. Sprague agreed to see her; however, she refused to see him and Bill Whitehouse agreed. The rumor is that she died from a brain hemorrhage, and if this is so I presume that nothing could have been done, even by a man of the eminence of Dr. Sprague.

Admiral Conolly has now arrived, and everybody is glad to have him. It is not a criticism of Don Felt, who I think did very well in the interval between your departure and Admiral Conolly's arrival, but it is hard for any organization to operate without a commander. I discovered that when I was acting President, and I'm sure Don Felt felt the same way. That is, you cannot commence any new line of thought because it is for such a short duration. It is necessary to wait for the permanent commander to establish his policies rather than attempt to establish your own for such a limited time.

Needless to say, everybody around town misses you and Adelaide. There is no doubt that you were thoroughly beloved and I have had many people remark on this fact since. I don't suppose anyone could have left here with better news notices than you had, and I think that they were deserved.

I went to the Army-Navy football game, and also to the reception given by the Commandant of the FOURTH Naval District for the game. The reception was excellent and prepared me for a delightful victory. The Navy team played marvelously, and demonstrated what can be done by an underdog team if it has the

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correct leadership and the will to victory. It must have both. The Army team outplayed us as regards speed and what might be termed football discipline, but in all other factors, we were vastly superior.

I have nothing to report concerning myself. The office is functioning normally and thanks to you, will, someday, have two additional officers. At the present time I have obtained no additional officers because (a) those I suggested the matter to felt that they could not come at this time, and (b) Admiral Conolly requested me not to take any action on anyone until he got here. This was a disappointment to me as it slowed me up. On the other hand, it may have been a Godsend as BuPers has now changed the allowance of officers to two extra Lieutenant Commanders instead of two extra Captains. Why, I do not know, but hope to discover this week.

Why didn't you call up my brother, Dr. C.E.H. Bates, and get together with him at the Bohemian Club. I presume that you are an honorary member.

The Training Command seems to be doing very well. I reviewed the graduating class last Wednesday and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Rumor has it now that the Training Command will be removed to Bainbridge and replaced with the Line School, but whether this is true or not remains a rumor.

Weather conditions here are quite good - 2 to 3 degrees above the average - and we succeeded in passing the violent storms of the past couple of weeks quite well in the Newport area. Finally, Ted Breed's address is 165 West Schoolhouse Lane, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

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6 December 1950

Rear Admiral and Mrs. R. E. Schuirmann,
U. S. Naval Base,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Jenny and Pinky:

This is merely a note to thank you very much for including me and my hostess, Mrs. Axel Jomson, at your pre-game luncheon. Both of us enjoyed it very much, not only because of the excellent food and drinks which I thoroughly enjoyed, and which I believe Mrs. Jomson also enjoyed, but because it gave us an opportunity to renew acquaintances with many old friends. Mrs. Jomson is a very well known Philadelphia matron, having previously been married to Mr. Joseph Warr (deceased), who was the head of the American Lawn Tennis Association. She seems to know everyone in Philadelphia of consequence, either politically or socially.

I felt when I went to the game that your wonderful luncheon had placed me in a mood to be able to withstand a Navy defeat, although I was looking for victory. In fact, Vice Admiral Harry W. Hill told me that I would see a victory. So you can see I got a double dose of happiness in that I had both the lunch and the victory.

I was sorry I did not see you after the game, but I was out in Ardmore, and that is a long haul from the Navy Yard, particularly when the traffic is considered. I flew back to Newport Sunday afternoon, and arrived here without incident.

Admiral and Mrs. Conolly were delighted to hear of your friendly interest in them, and I was happy to deliver his message to you.

With hopes that the cheese holds out and that you have a very happy Christmas and New Year, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES.

0272

Newport, Rhode Island,

6 December 1950

Vice Admiral and Mrs. Harvey E. Oversech,
Chevy Chase Country Club,
Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Dear Emily and Swede:

I couldn't have been more pleased when I saw you at the Army-Navy game. I had wanted to write to you after that perfectly delightful dinner you gave at the Army-Navy Club, but I have been writing very little in view of my sore thumb. The thumb was improving very rapidly, and until yesterday I thought that I had made almost a complete recovery; however, yesterday afternoon something happened to it and it got very sore again. However, I look forward to more improvement in the future as the high frequency heat from our physio-laboratory has an opportunity to work through it. It is nothing serious -- merely a damned nuisance.

The Army-Navy game was a wonderful victory for both Swede and me. I don't believe either of us has seen a Navy victory for a long time, and we were entitled to see one of these days. Well, this year happened to be one of these days! This victory shows what proper leadership, grounding in fundamentals and will to victory -- that is, morale -- can do to a team which is otherwise discredited. We see the same thing in Korea, where the Marines representing the Navy, are putting on a display of leadership, pride in organization, and the will to win, and the Army in some places is not doing too well in those same particulars. I understand the Christian Science Monitor of today will have something to say on this subject.

I was delighted to hear that you would soon have your home back again in Annapolis. It must be nice to live in one's own house rather than to live in a club, no matter how nice the club is.

Harry Hill seems to have done wonders at the Naval Academy. He proves to me conclusively what I have always said: "that the Naval Academy was entitled to have as a Superintendent only officers of outstanding military attainment." So as far as I am concerned, politicians and young Admirals are out. I personally feel that if Admiral Kinkaid could have had the Naval Academy instead of Harry Hill's predecessors, the Academy would have had a much better reputation than it has enjoyed in the past few years.

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Vice Admiral Richard Conolly has now become President of the War College. He, like Harry Hill, is an officer of outstanding military attainment, and in particular, he enjoys the good fortune of having a very fine military brain. This is essential in the President of the War College, so I am extremely gratified that the Department saw fit to offer and Dick saw fit to take the Presidency of this vital and fine institution.

Once again, it was swell to see both of you at the game, and to enjoy our victory in company. We have been pals through thick and thin, and this was part of the "thick."

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! As ever,

Your old Pal,

R. W. BATES.

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Newport, Rhode Island,

7 December 1950

Vice Admiral Harry W. Hill,
Superintendent, U. S. Naval Academy,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Dear Harry:

Perhaps I am wrong! Perhaps you should be the Superintendent of the Naval Academy rather than Commander in Chief of a Fleet as I wish you to be! The vast changes in the few months which have been noted at the Naval Academy -- the vast changes for the good -- clearly indicate the importance of having at the Naval Academy, as Superintendent, a man of outstanding military accomplishment and character. Also, they clearly indicate the need for having at the Naval Academy an officer as Superintendent of marked experience and understanding. These you evidently have to a considerable degree.

I want to congratulate you upon the Navy victory! It was a victory won against odds, not only against the physical odds of a great football team, but also the morale odds of having to compete in a match which most athletic authorities and press writers forecast would be an Army overwhelming victory.

The Navy team went in that game a complete underdog. I don't know anyone, excepting you and possibly me, who believed that they might win. The fact that they did win, the attitude of the midshipmen toward you during the halves of the game, and the attitude that both you and the midshipmen displayed, the one towards the other after the game at Annapolis, indicate that that mutual understanding which is essential for victory within a command exists at the Naval Academy. You are well placed! However, should war develop, I still insist that you should have command of one of the Fleets. I shall never let go of this thought and I shall hammer it in Washington at every opportunity. I don't mean now, but I mean later, if and when.

I have no doubt that Margaret is enjoying herself, and is a wonderful wife for the Superintendent of the Naval Academy. She is in an area which she knows well, and where she can shine even brighter than the brightest planet. Give her my best!

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I enjoyed meeting Betty and her husband. They seemed to be a very happy pair. I also enjoyed meeting your son Jack. I charged him with putting on a few pounds and he 'fessed up to about 15. As he puts them on, I try to take them off!

Warmest personal regards and congratulations on your signal success. As ever,

Your old Friend,

R. W. BATES.

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Newport, Rhode Island,

7 December 1950

Captain William H. Ashford,
Commander, Fleet Logistic Air Wing,
Atlantic/Continental,
U. S. Naval Air Station,
Patuxent River, Maryland.

Dear Bill:

I discovered today that you were still on duty at Patuxent in command of that ever increasing Fleet Logistic Air Wing. Congratulations! I also hear from indirect sources that you have considerably improved in health since last summer when you were in the hospital or at home with a recurrence of that arthritic hip. I sincerely trust that the doctors have discovered what is the matter with your hip so that you will be no longer bothered by the necessity for hospitalization.

With reference to hospitalization, I want to say that I am not entirely opposed to it. Naval officers work too hard and are extremely reluctant to allow themselves to appear on a medical sick list. They fear that this will have an adverse effect upon their advancement. Naturally, I think that this is silly. If a man isn't well, the Government has provided medical facilities for his welfare, and he should avail himself of them. The Selection Board assures me that they pay very little attention to the medical record if the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery says that the man is physically fit for duty. The great importance of hospitalization and/or home confinement is that the heart gets a rest. The pressure of events is so great today that one can see daily how many men of consequence are being hospitalized with heart attacks, or even dying from them. Last summer we had three in the Navy here in a matter of days. One was Admiral Beary, as a consequence of which he was retired; another was a Captain who had retired but a matter of days; the third was the Commanding Officer at Quonset who died. My thought is that any enforced rest is a good thing. I have been discussing this matter with the high command in Washington, as well as with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. More and more I believe there is a growing tendency to recognize the need for people in high pressure places to take enforced holidays. For that reason, despite Mr. Hearst, I think that it was quite proper for President Truman to attend the Army-Navy game, although I am not so sure that the effect of observing his beloved Army team defeated was good for him. I was at the game.

I am quite interested in discovering whether you will have any planes leaving for the coast around 22 December. I received a letter from my Mother a few days ago saying that my Father was

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gradually failing. I am always a little suspicious of these messages around Christmas, because they indicate a hidden desire to see the person addressed. In this case, it is not quite so because my Mother says she thinks that my Father won't be any worse next summer. On the other hand, if I could get out via your command I could make arrangements to fly back by civilian air immediately after Christmas. Or, possibly you might have a plane coming back at that time. What is your thought in this matter?

Captain Bond, from the War College, is going out to take command of the Fleet Air Wing in the Pacific. I think that Bond is a pretty capable fellow, with a keen sense of humor, although to look at him he seems as dull as unpolished brass. I have no doubt that you will get on with him famously.

We now have a new President of the War College, Vice Admiral Richard Conolly. Admiral Conolly is a very well informed, extremely capable officer, and I am sure he will continue to improve the War College.

Take care of yourself and your charming family! With warmest personal regards, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Newport, Rhode Island,

12 December 1950

Dr. Howard B. Sprague,
1180 Beacon Street,
Brookline 46, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Sprague:

This is merely a query. I am not sure that I am going to do what I am contemplating at all. However, I would be interested in knowing whether you think it is advisable for me to hop on a plane and go to California for, at the most, five days over the Christmas holidays.

My reasons for this thought are that my Father is 91 and my Mother 81, and one never knows what the future may bring. However, they both appear quite well now.

I have invariably discovered that when I make these long flights I get pretty fatigued, particularly if it is a Navy plane. Of course, I don't know at present if I can go in a Navy plane, but it might be possible, at least one way.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES.

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